

Highland Public Safety Division

2023 Annual Report

Chief Carole A. Presson: Public Safety Director





Table of Content

Letter from the Chief	p02
Mission Statement	p04
Police Department Command Structure	p05
Sworn Personnel	p06
Civilian Personnel	p15
Patrol Division	p16
Investigation Division	p17
School Resource Officer.....	p19
K9 Officer.....	p20
ILEAS.....	p22
Training.....	p23
Police Department Statistics.....	p24
Special Event Overtime.....	p33
Letter from the Fire Chief	p35
Fire Department Command Structure.....	p36
Fire Department Employee Roster	p37
Fire Calls for Service.....	p38
Fire Department Training.....	p39
Fire Department Special Events.....	p40
EMS Letter from the Chief.....	p42
EMS Employee Structure.....	p44
EMS Statistics.....	p45
EMS Training.....	p48
Building & Zoning	p50
Building & Zoning Statistics.....	p51

A Letter from the Chief

Mayor, City Council, and Citizens of Highland,

I am honored to present Highland Public Safety's 2023 Annual Report. Being in public safety requires dedication, integrity, and pride in the community a public servant represents. Few individuals have the willingness and ability to take on such a task. Fortunately for the citizens of Highland, you are represented by some of the finest men and women I have had the privilege of serving with.

2023 was another year of change and growth for all Public Safety Departments. We welcomed several new members and added Building and Zoning to the Public Safety umbrella. Each of these new beginnings has been met with pride and professionalism. While we continue to navigate the obstacles that these changes provide, we have continued the high level of service the citizens of Highland deserve.

As Public Safety Director, I am blessed to serve the City of Highland and the citizens as well as our many visitors. This City is second to none. The public safety division is committed to continuing a strong relationship with the community. We are fortunate to have citizens who enjoy interaction with law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and our code enforcement division. 2023 was a big year for events and community engagement. We saw a record number of attendees to our events and cannot wait to see what 2024 brings.

As we move into 2024, we hope for a year full of community and prosperity. We hope you all feel confident that Highland Public Safety is committed to serving and protecting you. We continue to take pride in the work we do and hope you all have a prosperous new year. Please feel free to call us if we can be of assistance to you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Carole A. Presson, Ph.D., Public Safety Director





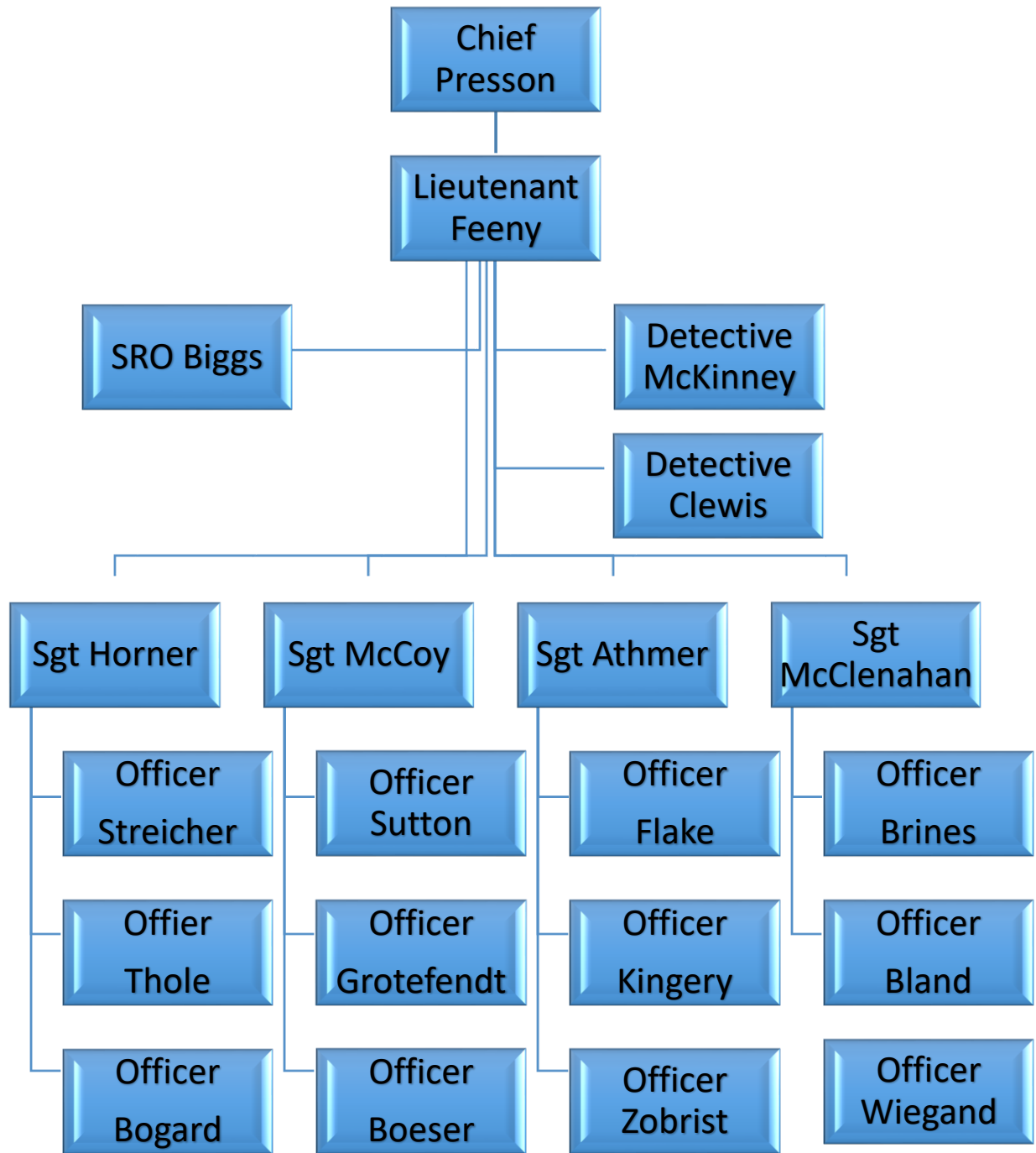
Mission Statement

The mission of the Highland Illinois Police Department is to build partnerships in the community and solve problems through professional police service while addressing the specific needs of our city.

“Community Commitment”

Police Department Command Structure

Command Structure 2023



Sworn Personnel

<i>Officer</i>	<i>Date of Hire</i>
Robert Horner	03/28/2001
Scott Athmer	06/11/2001
Brian McClenahan	04/26/2004
Damian Feeny	06/14/2006
Mark McKinney	07/02/2007
David Brines	03/31/2008
Christopher Clewis	06/27/2008
Christopher Flake	05/15/2009
Brad Sutton	11/05/2013
Nathan Biggs	12/23/2013
Shawn Bland	01/07/2014
Jeremiah Kingery	01/12/2014
Kenneth McCoy	01/14/2016
Shane Zobrist	05/31/2018
Jacob Streicher	01/04/2021
Megan Grotefendt	04/19/2021
Carole Presson	11/01/2021
Kent Thole	08/28/2022
Christopher Boeser	05/01/2023
Matthew Bogard	07/24/2023
Nicholas Wiegand	08/29/2023
Elijah Truilljo*	01/07/2024

* Not included in the command structure

Sworn Personnel



Chief Carole Presson joined the department in 2021 with 27 years of law enforcement experience. She had previously served with the Madison County Sheriff's Office as a Lieutenant in the Investigation Division and the Training Coordinator for the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy. Chief Presson has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, a Masters' Degree in Police Administration, and a Ph.D. in Philosophy with an emphasis on Criminal Justice. In 2022, Chief Presson graduated from the Southern Police Institute in Kentucky. She is a certified Juvenile Officer and CVSA Operator. Chief Presson previously served as a Report Officer for the Major Case Squad, Commander of the Child Death Investigation Task Force in District 1, and a representative of the Child Death Review Team for Madison and St. Clair County. Chief Presson was the recipient of the 2019 SILEC Presidential Award.



Lieutenant Damian Feeny joined the department in June 2006. He previously served four years of active service in the US Army as a paratrooper. Feeny graduated top of his class academically while attending the Police Training Institute located at the U of I Champaign. Lt. Feeny has been the Commander of the ILEAS Region 8 Mobile Field Force (MFF) since 2014 and also serves as a trainer for ILEAS where he helps train and validate all of the MFF teams statewide. Lt Feeny has been a detective, field training officer, range instructor, active shooter response instructor, and patrol sergeant. His education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Lindenwood University. He graduated from the Southern Police Institute in Kentucky in 2023. Feeny was promoted to Lieutenant in May of 2022.



Sergeant Scott Athmer joined the Police Department in June 2001 after serving three years in the US Army. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, both from SIUE Edwardsville. He served nine years as a patrolman, five years as a detective, and currently is a patrol sergeant. He has also held many extra duty assignments in the department as well as the region to include, field training officer, firearms instructor, and SET team commander. Currently, he is the supervisor of the investigations division. He serves as a member of the Child Death Investigation Team for our region and a Deputy Commander with the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis.



Sergeant Brian McClenahan joined the Highland Police Department in April 2004 as the Community Service Officer and was promoted to Police Officer in January 2010. He is a graduate of the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Lindenwood University. He was Employee of the Year in 2004 and Officer of the Year in 2010. Brian is a firearms instructor, Field Training Officer and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer. He has previously served in the Investigation Division and as an Investigator with the Major Case Squad.



Sergeant Kenneth McCoy joined the department in 2016. He graduated from the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy, where he earned the Southern Illinois Police Chiefs Association (SIPCA) Outstanding Officer Award, the Jeremy Chambers Top-Gun Award, the High Academics Award, and was chosen by his peers as the Class President. Sergeant McCoy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Integrative Studies, Leadership in Organizations from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He was the recipient of the David McCain Award in 2018. Sergeant McCoy is a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) member, the Field Training Sergeant, and the K-9 Unit Supervisor.



Sergeant Robert Horner joined the Highland Police Department in 2001. He graduated from The Illinois Department of Corrections Academy in Springfield and the Police Training Institute in Champaign. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology from McKendree University. He is a certified Crisis Intervention Officer, Field Training Officer, Field Training Officer, Bicycle Officer, and Juvenile Officer. Officer Horner received the 2021 and 2022 David McCain Memorial Award and was also voted the citizens favorite police officer 20 times. Horner was promoted to Sergeant in 2023.



Officer Mark McKinney joined the Highland Police Department in 2007. He graduated from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, earning a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice in 2001. Officer McKinney joined the Air Force in 2005 spending 6 years in the ANG at Scott Air Force Base. He has been a union representative for the Highland Fraternal Order of Police and a defensive tactics instructor for the department. He is currently an Investigator and in charge of HPD's Special Enforcement Team.



Officer David Brines was hired by the Highland Police Department in 2008. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. He is an Investigator with the Major Case Squad of Greater St Louis and the ILEAS Mobile Field Force. Officer Brines is currently assigned to the patrol division.



Detective Chris Clewis joined the department in June 2008. He graduated from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Clewis is currently a member of the Investigation Division. Chris is a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Defensive Tactics Instructor, Taser Instructor, Drone Pilot, and Knife Defense Instructor. Clewis is an Investigator with the Major Case Squad and an instructor at the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy.



Officer Chris Flake joined the Highland Police Department in May 2009. He graduated from the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy. While there, he was Class President of the Academy and the Southern Illinois Police Chiefs Association Most Outstanding Cadet. While employed with the Highland Police Department, he was named Officer of the year for 2013 and 2021. He also received the David McCain Memorial Award for 2011 and 2016. Flake holds a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Lindenwood University. He has served the community as a Patrolman, Investigator and School Resource Officer.



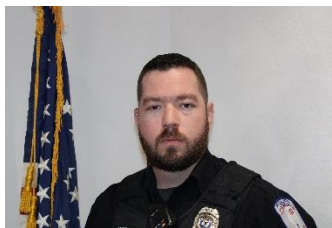
Officer Brad Sutton joined the department in December of 2013 as a dispatcher. In April of 2017, Officer Sutton transitioned to patrol. Officer Sutton earned top academic honors while attending the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy. Officer Sutton has an Associates in Applied Science Degree from Southwestern Illinois College and is currently completing a Bachelor's Degree at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a projected graduation date of May 2024. In June of 2022, Officer Sutton became the department's K-9 handler and was partnered with K-9 Hondo. Officer Sutton and K-9 Hondo completed the K-9 academy in September of 2022. In addition to serving as the K-9 handler, Officer Sutton is a Field Training Officer and a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Member.



Officer Nathan Biggs earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Studies from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in 2008. He graduated from the Police Training Institute in 2010 and began his law enforcement career with the Carbondale Police Department. After four years, he joined the Highland Police Department. Biggs has been recognized by IDOT twice and the Alliance Against Impaired Motorists. Officer Biggs is a member of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), juvenile officer, Wicklander/Zuwalski interviewing (basic and advanced), and currently serving as the School Resource Officer.



Officer Shawn Bland joined the department in January 2014. He graduated from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Bland served as an Investigator for 4 years and recently returned to the patrol division. He was awarded Officer of the Year in 2015 and Employee of the Year in 2021. He serves in several capacities within the agency including Field Training Officer, SET Team member, Cellebrite Certified, Evidence Officer, Investigator, Lead Homicide Investigator, and former Major Case Squad Investigator.



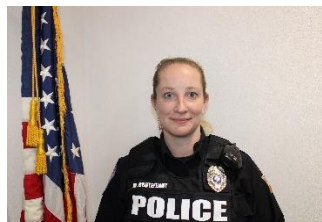
Officer Jeremiah Kingery joined the department in January 2014. He graduated Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He has been the President of the FOP Lodge for the last 9 years and has coordinated numerous charity events through the FOP. He is the department's Cellebrite Operator and is a Range Instructor. Kingery is also a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Member and Juvenile Officer.



Officer Shane Zobrist joined the department in May 2018. He graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Officer Zobrist is a range instructor, a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) member, and a Juvenile Officer. He is also a Captain in the Illinois Army National Guard.



Officer Jake Streicher joined the Highland Police Department in January of 2021 after four and a half years of service with another police agency. Officer Streicher graduated from Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He is a firearms instructor, MILO instructor, and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) member.



Officer Megan Grotefendt recently celebrated her 2nd anniversary with the Highland Police Department and is a graduate of the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy. Officer Grotefendt is a department's SET team member and is a Crisis Intervention Team member.



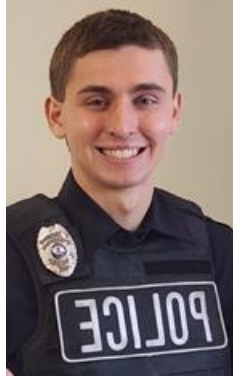
Officer Kent Thole joined the department in August of 2022. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Officer Thole graduated from the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy in December 2022 and is a Juvenile Officer.



K-9 Hondo joined the Highland Police Department in June of 2022. Hondo is a 3-year-old German Shepherd of Czech descent. Hondo's parents were both imported from the Czech Republic to the United States and were titled working dogs. Hondo was partnered with Officer Bradley Sutton in June of 2022.



Officer Matthew Bogard joined the department in July of 2023. Officer Bogard is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps where he served 8 years active duty. Officer Bogard graduated from the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy and served as the Class President. He holds the Illinois Professional Emergency Manager Designation from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security. Officer Bogard is a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Member, Drone Pilot, and BLS Instructor.



Officer Nicholas Wiegand joined the department in August of 2023. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Officer Wiegand graduated from the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy in December 2023 and is a Juvenile Officer.

Civilian Police Aides

Employee	Date of Hire
Karen Leadbetter	10/13/1997
Kelcey Chadwick	09/05/2014

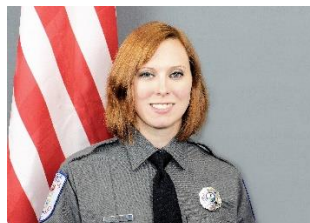
Consolidation brought with it many changes, including personnel. Fortunately for us, we were able to employ two of our dispatchers as Civilian Police Aides. These women have taken on the task of providing service to the public and assisting the police department with the arduous tasks that come with documenting the day-to-day operations of law enforcement.

Civilian Police Aids (CPAs) are responsible for direct service to the public, state and federal agencies, and officers. Currently, CPAs are in the process of a large undertaking. Training in requirements for reporting guidelines for NIBRS, body-camera footage, and FOIA is extensive.

Both Karen and Kelcey have embraced their new role in providing the support needed for our agency. While we no longer have dispatch responsibilities, the overall response to walk-in complaints and telephone calls is still critical to maintaining our relationship with the community.



Karen Ledbetter has worked with HPD since 1997. She won the SIPCA Telecommunicator of the Year award in 1999 and the Highland Police Telecommunicator of the Year Award in 2001, 2010, and 2013. After dispatching for 25 years, Karen transitioned into a CPA role. Karen helps manage many aspects of the day-to-day operations within the department.



Kelcey Chadwick joined HPD in September 2014 as a Telecommunicator. Kelcey graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Southern Illinois University in 2011. She previously worked for O'Fallon Police Department. Kelcey currently serves the Highland Police Department as a Civilian Police Aid since August of 2022

Patrol Division



The Patrol Division of the Highland Police Department provides services to the community continually. Members of each division within the agency support its day-to-day operation.

The Patrol Division comprises four squads, including a sergeant and three patrolmen. Included in this group are six specially trained officers to act as Field Training Officers. These officers take on the responsibility of training all new officers who join the HPD.

The Patrol Division has personnel assigned to the ILEAS Mobile Field Force, The Major Case Squad, School Enforcement, Training, Police Academy instruction, bicycle patrol, drone operation, lake patrol, code enforcement, and the Special Enforcement Team (SET). Other significant functions of this division include safety programs, investigations involving traffic crashes, DUIs, traffic control, parade support, peacekeeping responsibility, making arrests when needed, emergency response, and investigations.

Members of this division are the cornerstone of our community relationships. The Patrol Division provides year-round support 24 hours a day. This allows us to assist the public with vacation checks, extra patrols in areas of concern, and business checks.

Investigation Division



The investigation division includes two officers and a supervisor responsible for cases that require investigation outside the scope of the patrol division. These officers utilize their specialized training to resolve cases whenever possible. This year our investigation division saw a change. Detective Bland returned to the Patrol Division and Officer Mark McKinney moved to Investigations to serve as an Investigator for the agency.

The investigations division utilized and obtained numerous applications to assist in investigations including Cellebrite, Leads Online, TLOxp, SET Team, city-wide cameras, MOCIC, DEA LPRs, body cameras, and a drone. The investigations division also requested assistance from the US Marshall's Service for a warrant service and the Illinois State Police Crime Scene Unit on multiple cases.

The following were cases of note completed by Detective Bland, Detective McKinney and Detective Clewis:

1. An investigation was conducted into the death of an infant after a 9-1-1 call was received advising of a 3-month-old child who was not breathing. Despite efforts by EMS, the infant succumbed to his injuries. The investigation was conducted and ended with the father of the child being charged with two counts of First Degree Murder.
2. An investigation was conducted after a local business had sent a suspect \$340,000 under fraudulent circumstances. The suspect portrayed themselves as a contractor who had been hired to complete renovations on business property. Investigators were able to locate the suspect and recover the stolen money.

3. After three vehicles had been stolen from a local business, Investigators worked with the Metro-East Auto Theft Task Force to recover all the stolen vehicles. This investigation was part of many that led to the creation of an FBI Task Force established to investigate the rash of vehicle thefts happening throughout the area.

Besides the normal duties, the investigations division handles all evidence processing and laboratory transports. Additionally, the investigations division handled all asset forfeiture, sex offender compliance checks, and backgrounds for the city.

School Resource Officer



The Highland Police Department has one School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to the Highland Public School District. The SRO's primary job responsibility is safety/security. The SRO assists in protecting the Highland Schools, staff, and students from law violations.

As an SRO, the role of mentor/counselor is critical to developing students' behavior. The SRO serves as a positive role model for our students and counsels students on the complexities of everyday life. The SRO assists the students and their families with community resources when needed.

The SRO is responsible for educating students and faculty regarding safety procedures and the law. Numerous presentations are conducted throughout the year to the students on various topics such as navigating social media, the dangers of vaping, alcohol/drug abuse, and driver's education. In addition, presentations were conducted to ensure students and faculty knew what to do in the event of a Code Red or fire drill.

In 2023, the Highland School District saw a change in its School Resource Officer. Our new SRO has hit the ground running with the implementation of a mentorship program designed to engage in healthy interaction with the students as well as assign students to mentor fellow students. Additionally, the Highland SRO helped with fundraising and choosing families for the Christmas with a Cop program. 2024 will welcome the addition of our second SRO. This officer will be responsible for the Primary and Elementary School campuses.

K9 Officer



In August of 2022, HPD implemented a K-9 program. K-9 Hondo was acquired through Master Trainer Brian Dowdy of Dowdy Dawgs. K-9 Hondo is a three-year-old German Shepherd of Czech descent partnered with Officer Brad Sutton. K-9 Hondo is trained in narcotics detection, tracking, article searches, building searches, suspect apprehension, and several other disciplines.

K-9 Hondo and Officer Sutton completed over 416 different training events amounting to 283 hours including narcotics detection, obedience, tracking, building search, suspect apprehension, article search, handler protection, and others. Narcotics detection training incorporated proofing odors, distraction odors, controlled negative exercises, and blind detection exercises. Environments trained in included industrial/office areas, schools, vehicles, open areas, and other environments that replicate real-world deployments

Since the K-9 program's inception, K-9 Hondo and Officer Sutton have been deployed 40 times. 33 of these deployments were for narcotic detection. Of 31 of those deployments, 21 resulted in the seizure of narcotics. Hondo has also been used to assist other agencies in tracking suspects and article searches. K-9 Hondo has been

utilized to assist with a suspect apprehension. On one occasion, the suspect complied acknowledging the presence of the K-9.

K-9 Hondo and Officer Sutton have helped with three school searches including Highland High School, Edwardsville High School, and Lincoln Middle School. K-9 Hondo sniffed nearly 300 lockers and backpacks during these deployments.

Hondo was awarded the September 2023 Officer of the Month award because of his superior work and support of the Highland Police Department.



ILEAS Mobile Field Force

Highland Police Department is a member agency of ILEAS (Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System). ILEAS is an organization developed to facilitate law enforcement mutual aid in Illinois. Besides mutual aid where an agency provides either personnel and/or equipment; ILEAS provides response teams for specific incidents which require a specialized response. These teams are EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), SRT (Special Response Teams) and MFF (Mobile Field Force). Two Highland Officers are members of the Region 8 Mobile Field Force. The members are Officer David Brines and Lieutenant Damian Feeny. Lt. Feeny has been the Commander of the Region 8 team since 2014 and manages training, equipping and deploying the team. There are a total of 10 MFF regions in the state and Region 8 covers 11 counties. Lt Feeny has also been selected as a member of the MFF training cadre and helps to provide training to all 500 MFF members statewide.

The ILEAS MFF provides a rapid, organized and disciplined response to civil disorder and public safety emergencies that may occur during distribution of pharmaceuticals from the National Strategic Stockpile, weapons of mass destruction incidents, emergency situations, including natural or man-made disasters of various types, and routine local and statewide mutual aid which exceeds the effective ability of local enforcement.

Mobile Field Forces are composed of Police Officers from ILEAS member agencies. There are approximately 50 officers on each team. In the past few years the Region 8 team has helped with several search and rescue incidents, protests and even major case investigations for article/victim searches. Besides local and statewide incidents, the MFF has responded to national security events such as G20 and NATO, hurricane relief and other emergencies where the host state is in need of mutual aid.

Each team member receives specialized training in 1st Amendment demonstrations, crowd control operations, communications, search and rescue, trauma care and much more. Some team members are provided extra training on less lethal weapons and extrication classes. Members sometimes travel to Anniston, AL for training hosted at the Center for Domestic Preparedness.

Training

Training for law enforcement is a critical component of agency legitimacy and performance. Throughout the year, officers engage in training ranging from hazardous materials to active shooter scenarios. Fortunately for Illinois officers, Illinois consists of sixteen Mobile Training Units that ensure officers remain current with their training requirements.

In 2023, the twenty-two sworn officers of the Highland Police Department completed a combined 3030 hours of training. This training was in the form of in-person and online training. These pieces of training were courses that have been certified by ILETSB, courses offered by an ILETSB-designated MTU, or courses offered by outside vendors and agencies.

Due to the increased training mandates, part of our 2023 budget included training officers for certification in specialty areas. This will allow members of the Highland Police Department to train our officers and those from local departments who may not be able to attend training away from town. This year we had officers attend Instructor Development, High-Risk Traffic Stop Instructor training, GRACIE Ground Fighter Instructor training, Range Officer Instructor training, and MILO Instructor training.

This training will undoubtedly benefit the officers and the citizens but will also increase overtime and hours worked for our officers. To maintain our level of service, officers will be required to attend training and work overtime necessary to ensure minimum manpower requirements.

In 2022, the Highland Police Department enacted a review of Daily Training Bulletins (DTB's) to increase policy and procedure education. Each week, officers were required to review three policies. This year, officers completed 90 DTBs.

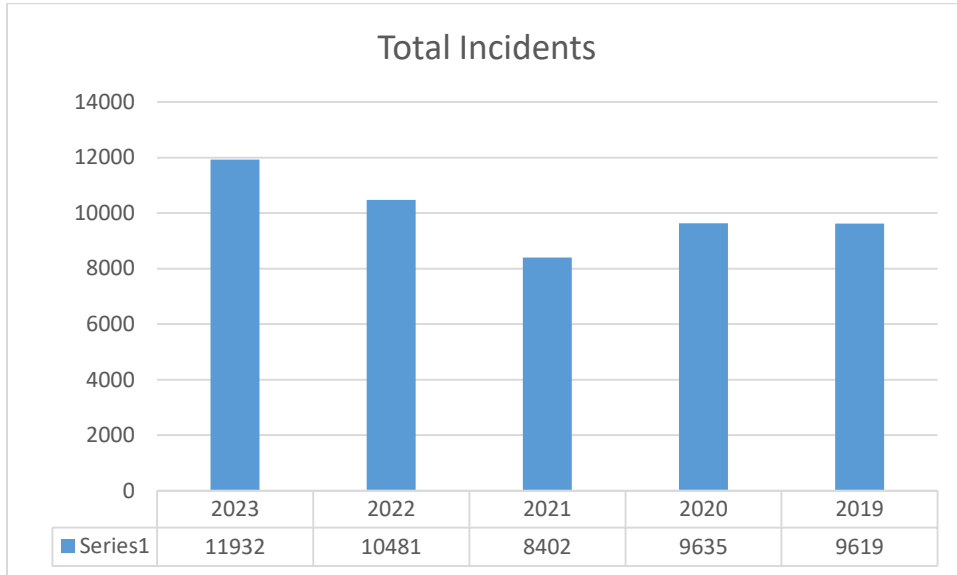
Throughout 2023, the Highland Police Department welcomed three new members. Each of these probationary officers will complete a 560 hour training program designed to assist them in transitioning from the classroom environment to the duties and responsibilities of a uniformed patrol officer. Officers are assigned a Field Training Officer (FTO) to prepare them for solo patrol. These numbers are included in total training hours.

Statistics



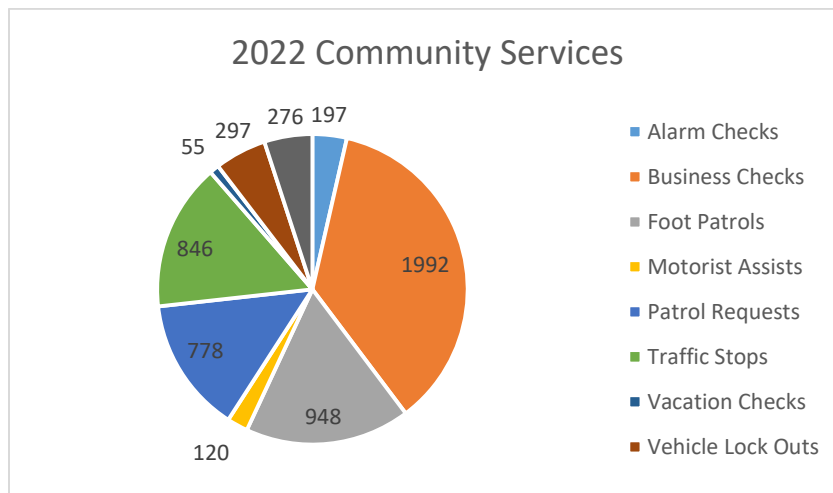
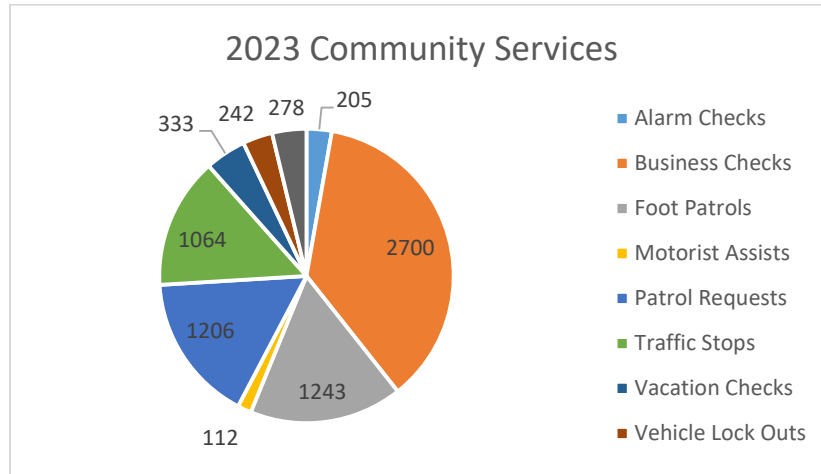
The following pages contained statistics relevant to each division's activity. Years vary to illustrate changes.

Total Incidents



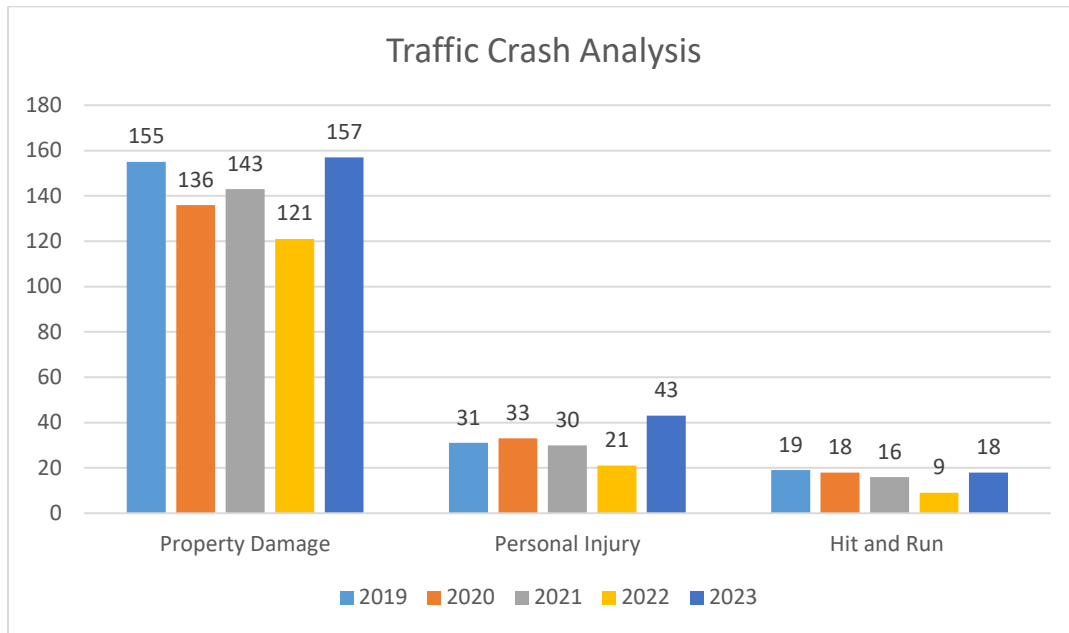
Total incidents for the year have started to rise to pre-Covid numbers. The above chart outlines the total amount for the last five years. Total incidents include all officer activity, including self-initiated activity. 2023 activity shows an increase of 13.844%.

Community Services



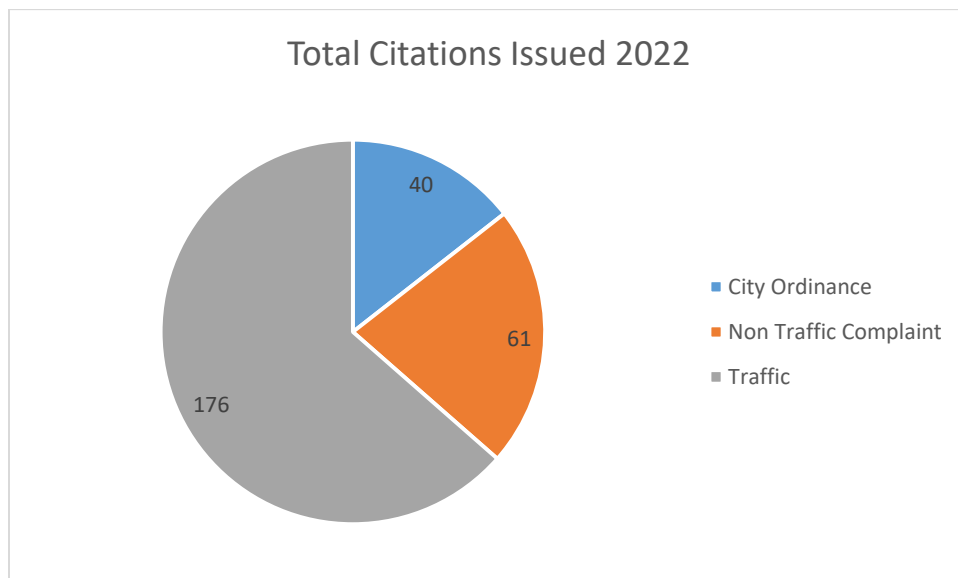
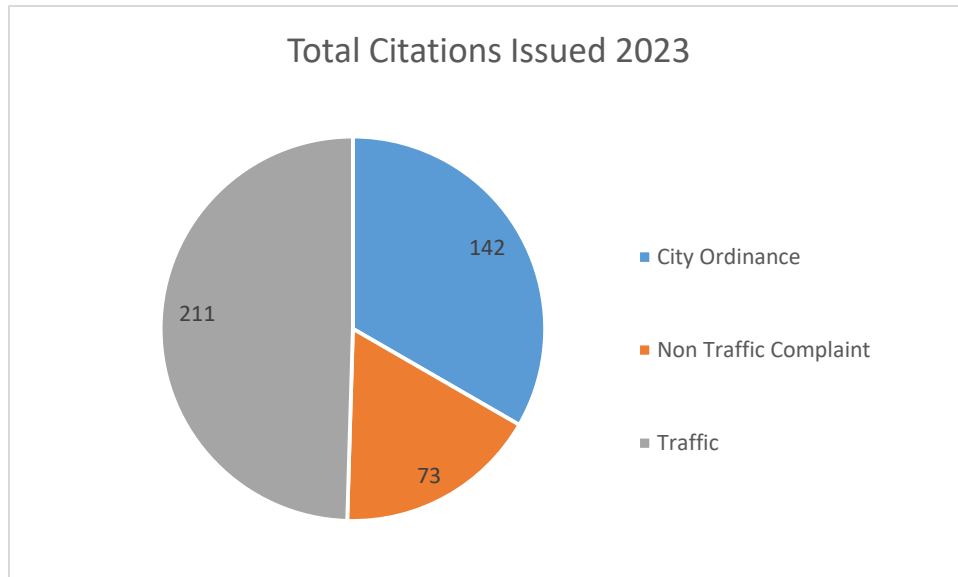
Community Services are a large part of our involvement with members of the community and local businesses. Between the years 2022 and 2023, our proactive involvement increased by 34.017%

Traffic Crash Analysis



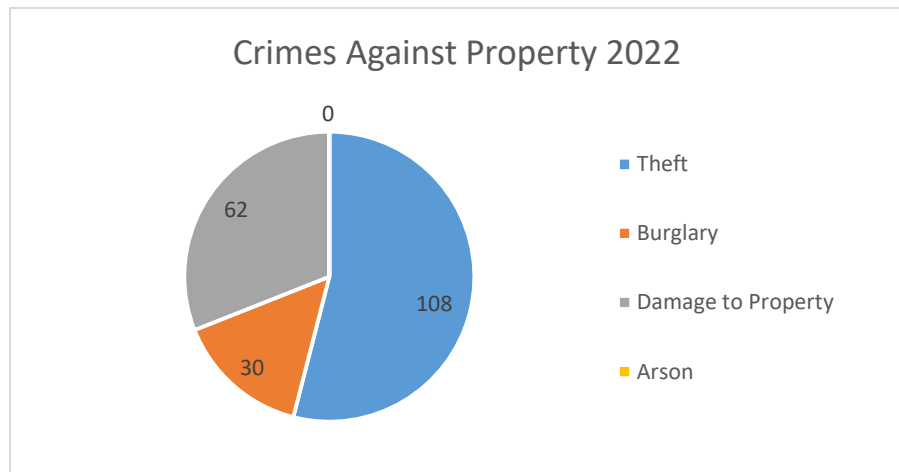
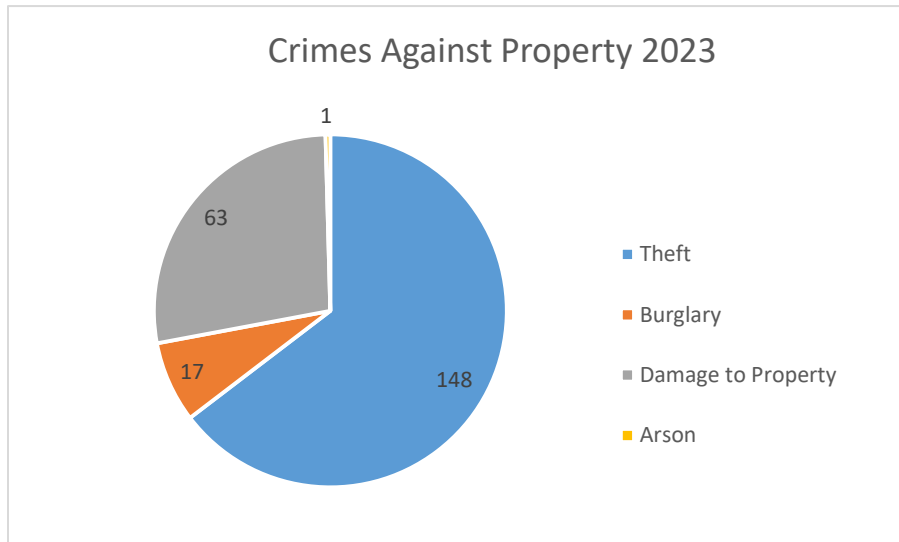
Traffic crashes were analyzed for the last five years. 2023 showed a 44.37% rise of traffic related incidents. Analysis is currently being conducted to identify areas needing additional enforcement to reduce these numbers for 2024.

Traffic Citations and Ordinance Violations



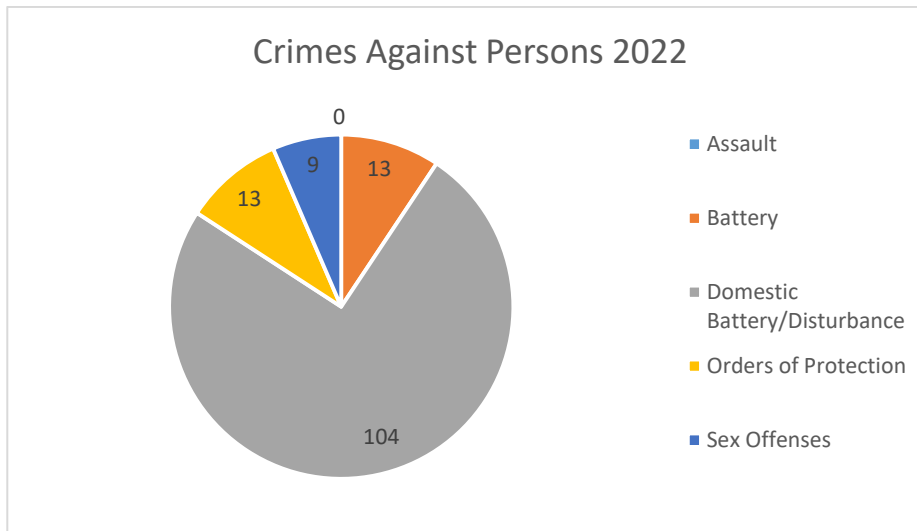
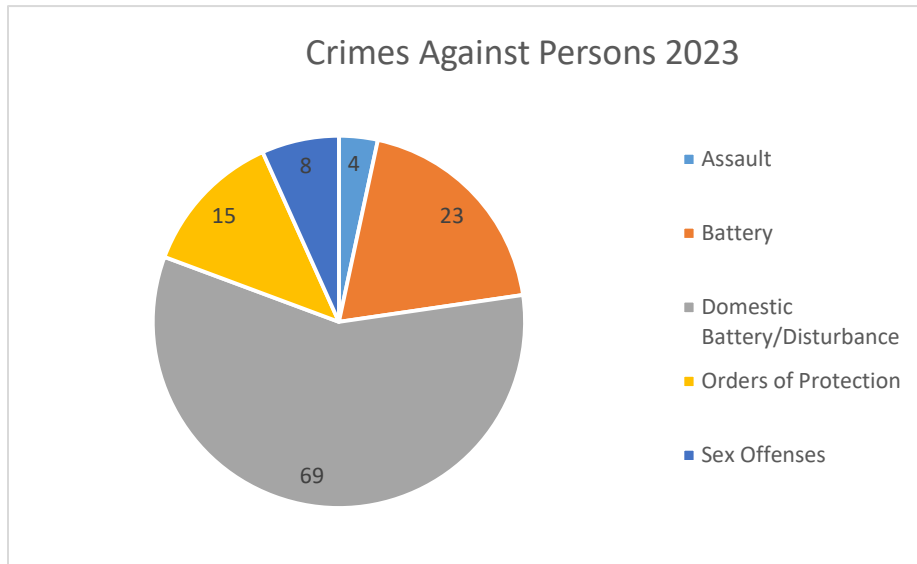
Citations issued in 2023 were 53.79% higher than in 2022. Citations include ordinance violations, non-traffic, and traffic citations. Additional rise in citations is a result of the increased traffic crashes within the city.

Crimes Against Property



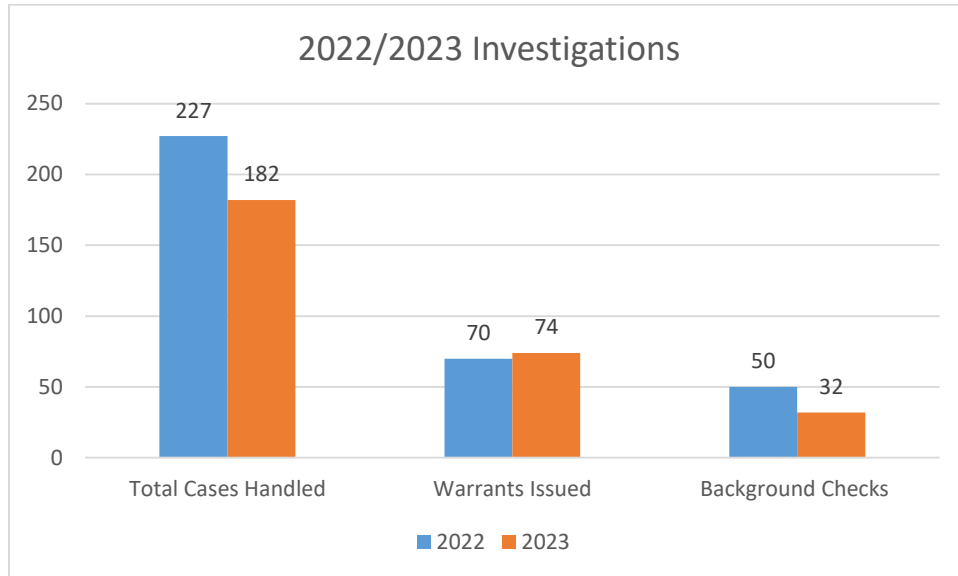
Property Crimes are the most common offenses nationally. 2023 saw an increase in theft offenses by 37% but also saw a decrease in burglary offenses by 43%. Overall, crimes against property increased by 14%.

Crimes Against Persons



Rates for crimes against persons in 2023 are down 14.388% compared to 2022. Domestic violence shows the highest rates accounting for 57.98% of our responses.

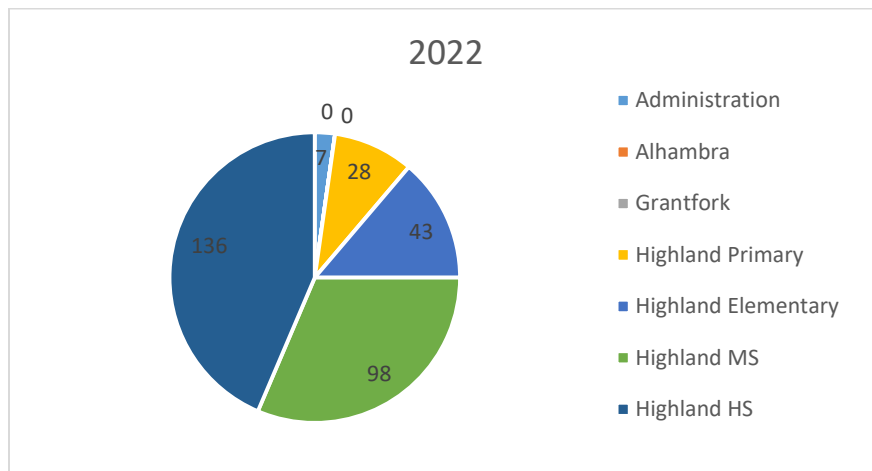
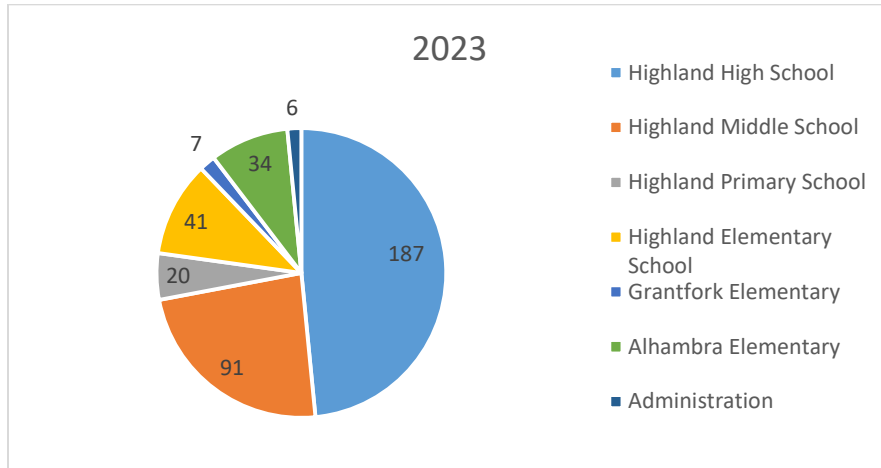
Investigations



Cases in 2023 were down 16.43% compared to 2022. Note that the number of warrants is not necessarily indicative of clearance rates that may also include unfounded cases or other clearances by exception.

*HPD is currently making changes to Investigation reporting to include additional figures.

School Incidents



School incidents include all documented contact during school hours. Documented school incidents which range from ordinance violations to the investigation of property crimes or crimes against people have increased by 23.72% between the years 2022 and 2023.

Special Event Overtime

Cemetary Dash	2
Chamber Christmas Parade	10
Christmas with a Cop	18
Frost Fest 5k	4
Halloween	8
High School Basketball Sectionals	6
High School Homecoming Parade	6
High School Prom	5
High School Search	4
High School Spring Fling	3.5
Highland Fire Department 9-11 Run	9
Highland Speedway	100
July 4 th Celebration	16
Kirchenfest	79.75
Kloss Furniture Christmas with a Cop	8
Madison County Fair	40
Memorial Day Biathlon	4
Memorial Day Parade	8
Optimist Shot Out	20
Relevant 5K	4
Special Olympics Bocce	6
Special Olympics Spring Games	6
Summer Nationals	10
Schweizerfest	68.50
Total Hours	445.75

Throughout 2023 the Highland Police Department provided extra services for 24 events outside of routine police services. The total number of hours does not include hours worked by the Chief of Police or the Lieutenant. These positions are salaried, which eliminates paid overtime.





City of Highland Fire Department

Chris Straub, Fire Chief



It is with great excitement that we share the accomplishments of the Highland Fire Department in 2023. These accomplishments could not have been completed without the support of the Public Safety Director, City Manager, Mayor, and the City Council. In 2023, the HFD was able to continue to increase its personnel to stay at an adequate staffing level. The HFD staff is one of dedication completing over 1000 combined hours of training, participating in 31 public relations events, and a record number of Emergency responses at 337.

This year has brought many changes and accomplishments for the HFD, including the purchase of a new 2023 Toyne fire engine. The new apparatus will allow the HFD flexibility in how we respond. The new modern technology in this apparatus will allow firefighters to respond more safely.

For the first time in history, the HFD staffed the Highland Speedway with a response crew for their Saturday night events. The staff covered 16 Saturday events this year.

In 2023, the HFD started on a training facility. The facility is located at the City of Highland Waste Water facility on Iberg Rd. Having the training facility, will allow the HFD to train without taking resources and staffing to another jurisdiction. The training facility will be for the Public Safety Department to train on various types of skills. There will be live burns, auto extrication, forcible entry, ventilation, and more. The department is excited to have this project completed.

In 2024, we look forward to continuing the growth of the department. With the new training facility, we will continue to strengthen our skills so the HFD can work as safely as we can. The HFD membership is a unique individuals who continue to serve the community and strive to be the best that can.

Sincerely,

Chris Straub
Fire Chief



Chief
Chris Straub

Asst. Chief
Dan Tallman

Matt Embry
Chaplain

Captain
Ty Barr

Captain
Zach Spengler

Lieutenant
Logan VonHatten

Lieutenant
Ben Straub

Lieutenant
Alyssa Seegers

Firefighters
Martin Carle
Harrison McLaughlin
Garrett Berolatti
Travis Tebbe
Gavin Schlarmann
Tony Winter

Firefighters
Dan Newman
Devin Randall
Collin Oglesby
Parker Nungesser
Jeff Becker

Firefighters
Josh Suever
Hillary Moll
Kayla Pace
Jessica Hargis
Chris Freimann

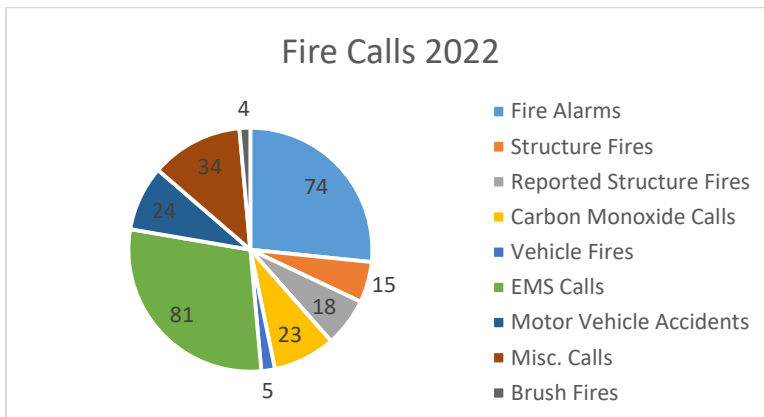
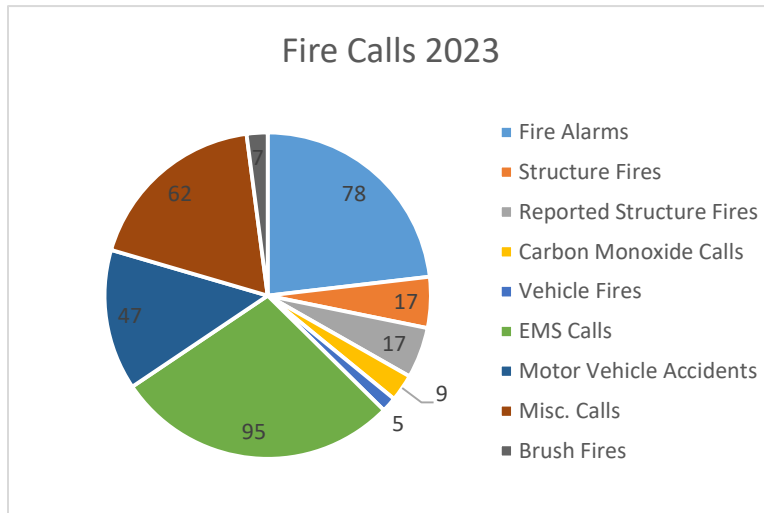
Firefighters
Brittney Hargis
Kyle LaTemp
Mike Zaloga
Travis Knoche

Fire Department

Employee Roster

Straub, Chris	Chief
Tallmann, Dan	Asst. Chief
Barr, Ty	Captain
Spengler, Zach	Captain
Seegers, Alyssa	Lieutenant
Straub, Ben	Lieutenant
VonHatten, Logan	Lieutenant
Becker, Jeff	Firefighter
Berolatti, Garrett	Firefighter
Carlen, Martin	Firefighter
Freimann, Chris	Firefighter
Hargis, Brittany	Firefighter
Hargis, Jessica	Firefighter
Knoche, Travis	Firefighter
LaTempt, Kyle	Firefighter
McLaughlin, Harrison	Firefighter
Moll, Hillary	Firefighter
Newman, Dan	Firefighter
Nungesser, Parker	Firefighter
Oglesby, Parker	Firefighter
Pace, Kayla	Firefighter
Randall, Devin	Firefighter
Schlarmann, Gavin	Firefighter
Suever, Josh	Firefighter
Tebbe, Travis	Firefighter
Winter, Tony	Firefighter
Zaloga, Mike	Firefighter
Embry, Matt	Chaplain

Calls for Service



This year has been a busy one for the Fire Department. In 2023 Calls for service increased by 21.22% compared to 2022. The addition of new personnel could not have come at a better time.

The Highland Fire Department entered into an automatic mutual aid agreement with the Highland-Pierron Fire Protection District and the St. Jacob Fire Protection District. Per the agreement, we will assist both departments when a structure fire occurs in their district with an apparatus and manpower. When a structure fire occurs in the Highland Fire Department coverage area, both departments will respond to assist Highland with apparatus and manpower.

The Highland Fire Department is a member of the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) in partnership with IEMA (Illinois Emergency Management Agency). MABAS is an established statewide, non-discriminatory mutual aid response system for fire, EMS, and specialized incident operational teams. Sharing the effort are representatives from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Public Health – EMS Division, and the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. The system defines a resource response plan for any location within the state when the Governor orders a Declaration of Disaster.

Training

The Highland Fire Department offers two styles of training. In-person and online through Vector Solutions, which was acquired to boost training opportunities for Firefighters. Each week firefighters are offered training that would equate to 158 hours per year per firefighter. Online offerings equate to 191 hours per year.

In 2023, the Highland Fire Department had three firefighters enroll in the online Basic Operations Firefighter Certification class. The firefighters complete the bookwork online over the course of 12 weeks. The online version of this certification class allows the firefighter the flexibility to be at their home without the need to take time off from work. Once the classroom portion of the class is completed, they will need to obtain a Hazardous Materials Operations certification (40-hour course) and attend an 8-hour Fire Vehicle Safety Operations course. Upon successful completion, the student will meet the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal, Pro Board, and IFSAC NFPA Firefighter I requirements for certification. IFSI Basic Operations Firefighter focuses on an intense classroom and hands-on approach to firefighting, promoting skill competency and an understanding of the fire ground. Students complete numerous evolutions, which encourage them to apply their skills to a variety of scenarios.

Currently, the Fire Department has 10 firefighters enrolled in the Emergency Medical Responder course. By obtaining this certification, it will allow the fire department to assist EMS efficiently. This course will be completed on April 3, 2024. I am proud to say when these 10 individuals complete the Emergency Medical Responder course, the fire department will have 19 personnel trained at some medical level.

Special Events

Battle of the Badges
Easter Bunny Open House
Safety Day with ISP
AG Safety Day for Highland Schools
St. Jacob Touch a Truck
Memorial Day Parade
Parks & Rec Playground
Schweitzerfest Parade
Marine Parade
July 4 th Fireworks
Library Safety Day
Car Demo Madison County Fair
St. Jacob Parade
Kirchenfest 5K
Kirchenfest Wash Down
Highland HS Homecoming Parade
Glik Park Flag Pole Dedication
Highland School Fire Prevention
Highland Pierron Open House
Kloss Furniture Shop with a Cop
Veterans Day Parade
KC Hall Craft Show
Frost Fest Run
Lions 5K
Chamber Christmas Parade
Santa at the Firehouse
Ride Home from School Program
Mater Dei Girls Championship Parade
Highland Firefighters Picnic
Grantfork Homecoming

Throughout 2023 the Highland Fire Department provided extra service outside of routine fire protection.



Mayor, City Council and Citizens of Highland

It is with pleasure that we at EMS share with you some of the data that we track each year. We study EMS delivery from all angles to ensure that we are meeting the needs and expectations of the citizens of Highland.

With the amount of data collected and analyzed by EMS annually, the data offered herein seemed to be the most appropriate for your information. If you desire to see additional or different data, we can easily accommodate that request.

The staff at Highland Ambulance Service maintain skill sets by meeting various training requirements annually. Standards are set by both the Illinois Department of Public Health and the regional EMS Director located at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Our staff meets or exceeds all established training benchmarks annually.

71.6% of our calls for service originate within Highland. Highland Pierron and Marine Fire Protection Districts are the next busiest venues for EMS, averaging about 8% and 10.4% of our total call volume. Our busiest times of the day are between the hours of 7:00 AM and 11:00 PM.

Once again, it is our pleasure to provide you with this information and an opportunity to get to know a little more about us.

Respectfully

J. Brian Wilson, Chief of EMS



MISSION STATEMENT

Highland Ambulance Service is committed to providing the highest level of pre-hospital medical care for our community. We protect lives through prompt response and advanced treatment to medical emergencies and injuries.

VISION STATEMENT

Highland Ambulance Service, through continuous training, strives to be innovative, adaptable, and resilient in the face of all internal and external challenges.

CORE VALUES

Professionalism – We are committed to displaying a calm, confident, and pleasant demeanor, along with a neat and clean appearance at all times within the workplace and in the public.

Integrity – We value truth, honesty and doing the right things, the right way, at the right time, for the right reasons.

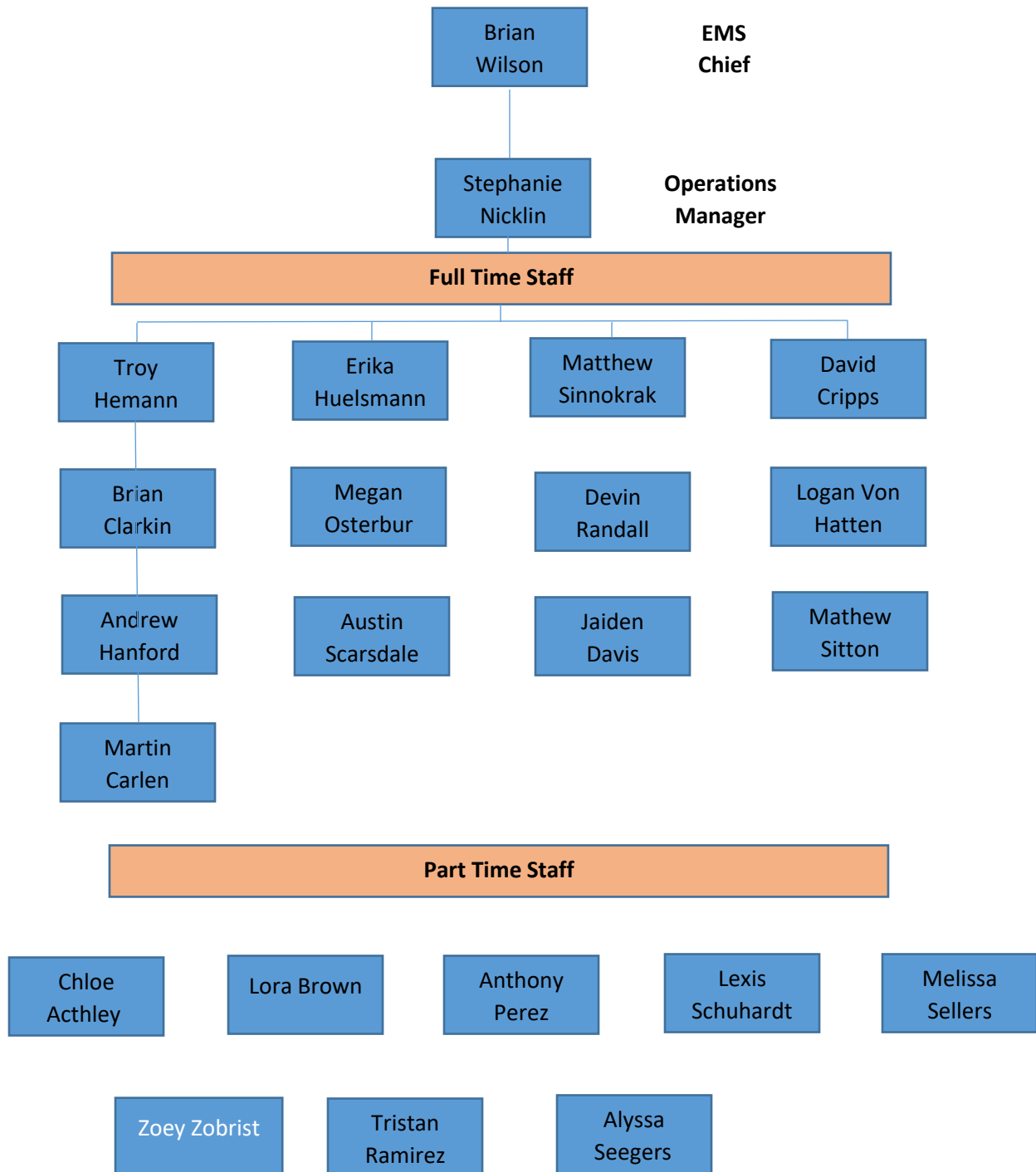
Honor – We value our occupation as a privilege to be able to serve the public and make a positive difference in their lives.

Dedication – We each share a steadfast commitment to the objectives our of mission and the citizens that we serve.

Service – Each member possesses an unwavering call to protect and serve the community of Highland and surrounding districts.

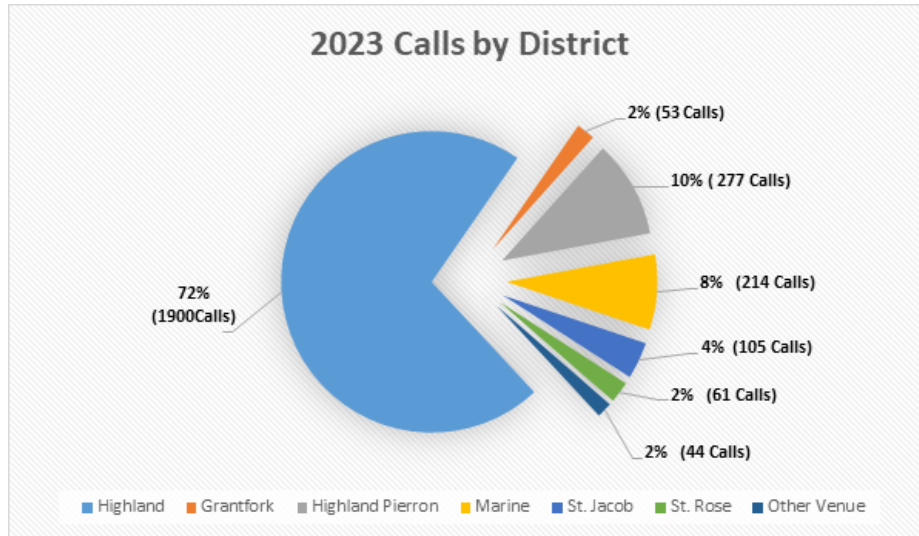
“Service Before Self”

EMS Structure



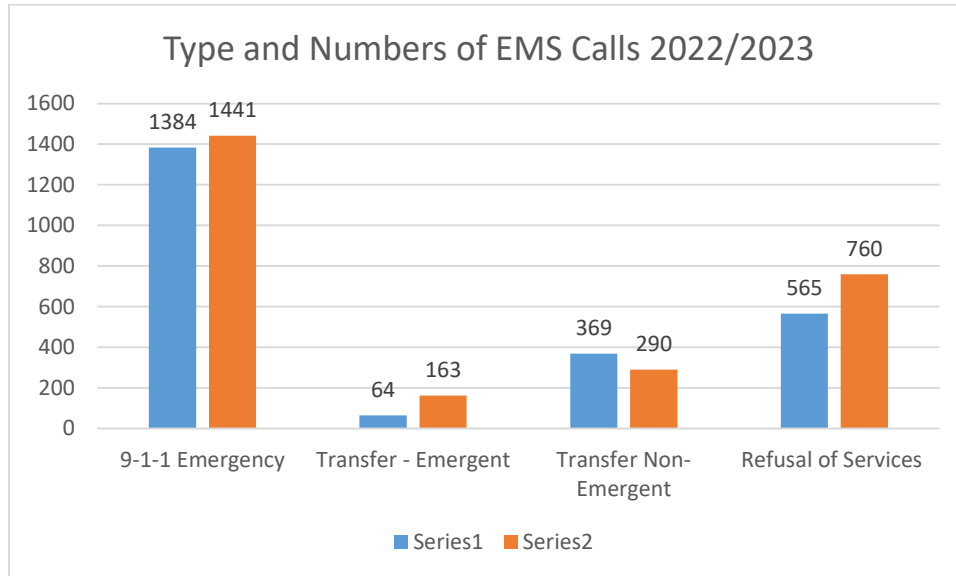
Calls for Service

2654 EMS Calls by location - 2023



Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is provided within the city of Highland, as well as the fire protection districts for Highland Pierron, Marine, St. Jacob, Grantfork and St. Rose. The clear majority of EMS calls responded to are within Highland. The charts indicate total calls for service in the past two years, as well as the distribution of those calls by percentage in district served.

Calls for Service



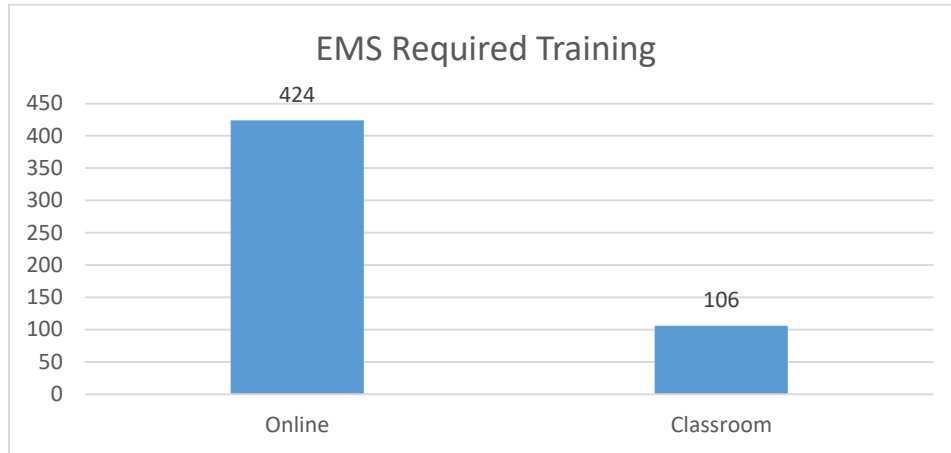
Shown here are the numbers and types of call responded to. The clear majority of calls received are emergency in nature. Inter-facility transfers from St. Joseph's Hospital also occur regularly as indicated. Some responses end up with a person not needing EMS at all or not needing to be transported in an ambulance. These are shown as a refusal of services above. Calls of each type fluctuate a little bit each year. Overall, EMS calls have increased by 11.42% between 2022 and 2023.

9-1-1 Emergency Calls



Times of when EMS calls are received are tracked in order to ensure that we are staffing ambulances appropriately in accordance with the historical needs as shown in this chart. As indicated by this graph, these times do not see big swings in numbers. They tend to remain very consistent from year to year.

Training



EMS personnel are required by the Illinois Department of Public Health, as well as the St. Elizabeth resource hospital, to complete a specified number of hours annually in various topics of EMS focus. For example, time must be spent on cardiac emergencies, bleeding and wound care, fractures, mental health, etc. The chart above demonstrates the hours accumulated by EMS members in 2023. All training follows outlines approved by the various governing agencies.

Initial Training Requirements

Here are the training requirements for anyone wishing to be an EMT Basic or EMT Paramedic.

Emergency Medical Technician – Basic

- High School Diploma (Pre-requisite)
- 150 Total education hours
 - 125 hours of Classroom time
 - 25 Hours of Clinical time

Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic

- College Biology or Anatomy & Physiology – (Pre-requisite)
- Minimum of 1000 education hours
 - 500 Classroom Time/500 Clinical Time
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support Course
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support Course
- International Trauma Life Support Course
- Basic Life Support Course



Building and Zoning Code Enforcement

B&Z

Mission

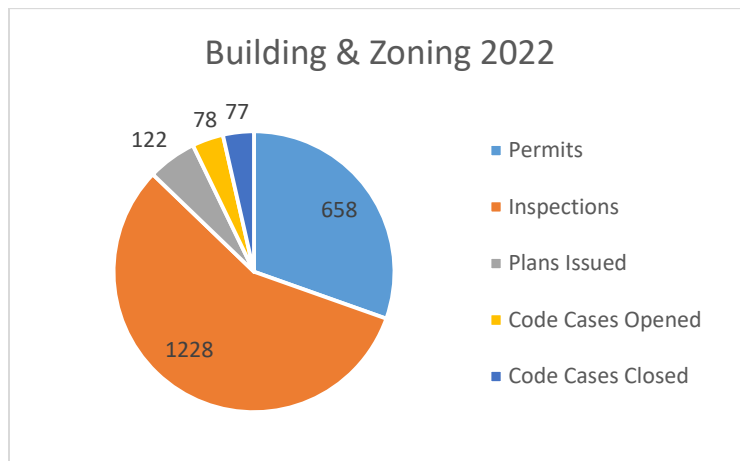
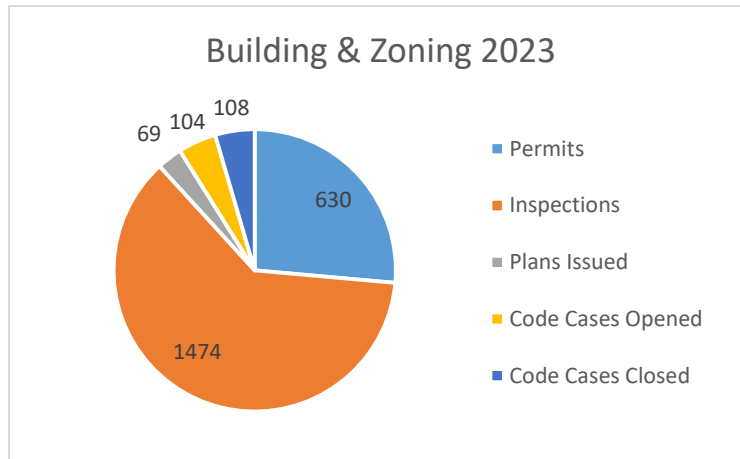
The mission of the Highland Department of Building and Zoning is “To protect the public’s Investment, life, health, and welfare in the community while serving in a professional, ethical and efficient manner.”

This year Building and Zoning moved to its new home in the Public Safety Building as part of the Public Safety Division. Two employees, Chris Straub and Mike Hanna, serve the citizens of Highland by ensuring that the quality of construction, safety, and a high standard of living are maintained. In addition to these two employees, members of the Highland Police Department assist with code enforcement throughout the 16 districts of the city.

Last year B&Z saw a 10.26% increase in overall responsibilities. This increase was part of the 33.33% increase in code cases which contribute to the overall safety and security of our citizens.

B&Z’s employees hold certifications that allow them to ensure the safety of all Highland residents and those who visit out town. Chris Straub joined B&Z in 2018 and holds certification in Fire Inspection, School Inspection, Property Maintenance & Housing Inspection, Pyrotechnics Inspector, basic fire alarm plan review, and certification in Illinois Energy Codes. Mike Hanna joined B&Z in 2019 and is certified as a Residential Building Inspector, Property Maintenance & Housing Inspection, has taken over 50 continuing education classes.

B&Z / Code Enforcement



Building and zoning/Code enforcement completed 2023 with a 10.26% increase in overall activity. Code cases increased by 33.33%; Inspections increased by 20.03%; Permits were down 4.25%; and plans issued was down 43.44%.

